



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** December 7, 2010

**17**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** ESTABLISHING A REDISTRICTING PROCESS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**SUMMARY:**

**Overview**

Every ten years following the Federal Census, the County is called upon to redistrict the five Supervisorial districts. Results of the 2010 Federal Census are anticipated in late March 2011. Based upon the 2010 Census data the Board of Supervisors will be required to redistrict the five supervisorial districts during 2011.

Accordingly, today's action will initiate the establishment of a County redistricting process to provide the public with an opportunity to participate and provide input on redistricting plans to the Board of Supervisors. Approval of these recommendations will direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to return to the Board on January 25, 2011 with proposed redistricting criteria, procedures, and timelines to guide the County through the redistricting process, and authorize the establishment of a Redistricting Advisory Committee to advise the Board of Supervisors on redistricting plans.

**Recommendation(s)**

**CHAIRWOMAN SLATER-PRICE AND SUPERVISOR HORN**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop redistricting criteria, opportunities for public input on redistricting plans, and timelines relating to the redistricting process, and return to the Board on January 25, 2011 for Board consideration and adoption.
2. Approve in principle the establishment of a Redistricting Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising the Board of Supervisors on redistricting plans in 2011. The Committee shall consist of five members of the public with each Supervisor nominating one member. The nominations will be subject to the approval of the full Board of Supervisors.
3. Direct County Counsel to prepare a resolution that if approved would establish

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a redistricting Advisory Committee, and return to the Board on January 25, 2011 for Board approval.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. No additional staff years are required.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

**Applicable General Provisions Regarding Redistricting**

There are two legal sources that specifically govern the redistricting process. These two legal sources are the California Elections Code and the San Diego County Charter, which contain provisions that are specific to the redistricting of supervisorial districts.

California Elections Code section 21500 requires the following:

- A board of supervisors shall adjust the boundaries of any or all of the supervisorial districts of the county so that the districts shall be as nearly equal in population as may be.
- Counties must comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act.
- In establishing the boundaries of the districts a board of supervisors may give consideration to the following factors: (a) topography, (b) geography, (c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness of territory, and (d) community of interests of the districts.

Additionally, section 400.1 of the Charter of the County of San Diego provides the following:

The Board of Supervisors shall redistrict the supervisorial districts of the County in the manner specified by general law and in such a way that the area of at least two districts is as substantially outside the City of San Diego as the population will permit. Failure of the Board of Supervisors to so redistrict within one year constitutes misconduct in office.

The County's key considerations for approaching redistricting are set forth in the two provisions above.

**Timing**

The Registrar of Voters has advised that redistricting ordinances should be in place no later than early September, 2011 so that voter file information can be updated in time for candidacy filings in anticipation for the 2012 Statewide Primary election.

**Redistricting Process**

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In addition to the legal requirements that must be followed by the Board of Supervisors in approving a redistricting plan, the Board should be guided by redistricting criteria to assist in the development of the redistricting plan. Also, the development of the redistricting plans should include broad opportunity for public review and input. Today's action directs the CAO to develop redistricting criteria and opportunities for public input, and to return to the Board on January 25, 2011 for consideration and approval of these items. Today's action also directs the CAO to present a redistricting time line for Board approval on January 25, 2011 to ensure that the redistricting process is completed within the time frames required.

**Redistricting Advisory Committee**

Elections Code section 21505 provides that your Board may appoint an advisory committee composed of County residents to study redistricting and to report back within six months of release of the census data, but in no event later than August 1, 2011.

Today's action requests that your Board approve in principle the establishment of a Redistricting Advisory Committee to advise the Board on redistricting plans. It is proposed that the Committee consist of five members of the public, each of whom would be nominated by a member of the Board, and appointed by the Board of Supervisors as a whole. The Board of Supervisors will rely on the Committee to review and comment on proposed redistricting plans and to recommend to the Board a redistricting plan, or redistricting plan alternatives, for Board consideration and adoption of a final plan.

**Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan**

The above mentioned actions support the Required Discipline of Accountability/Transparency in the County's 2010-15 Strategic Plan by providing an important opportunity for the public to participate in the process of redistricting.

Respectfully submitted,

PAM SLATER-PRICE  
CHAIRWOMAN  
THIRD DISTRICT

SUPERVISOR HORN  
VICE-CHAIRMAN  
FIFTH DISTRICT

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**      ☐      Yes      ☒      No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
☐      Yes      ☒      No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**  
N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**  
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION  
NUMBER(S):**  
N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Community Services Group

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):**      N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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